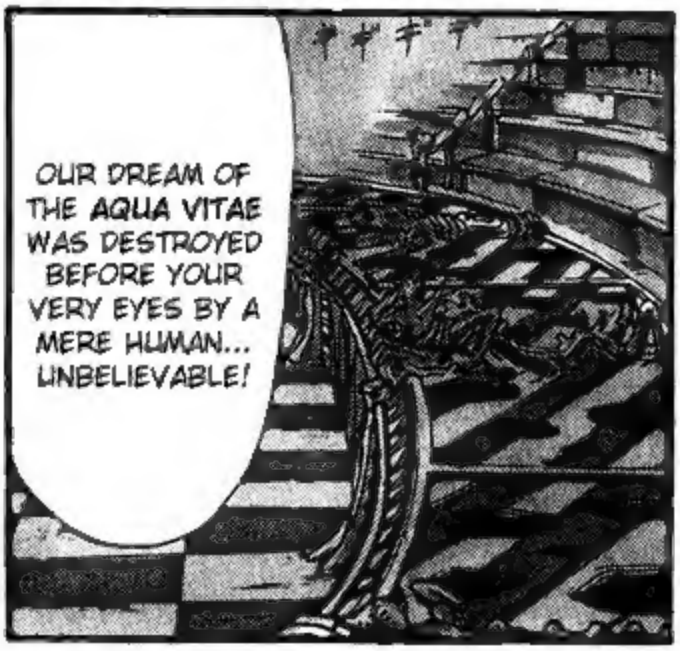
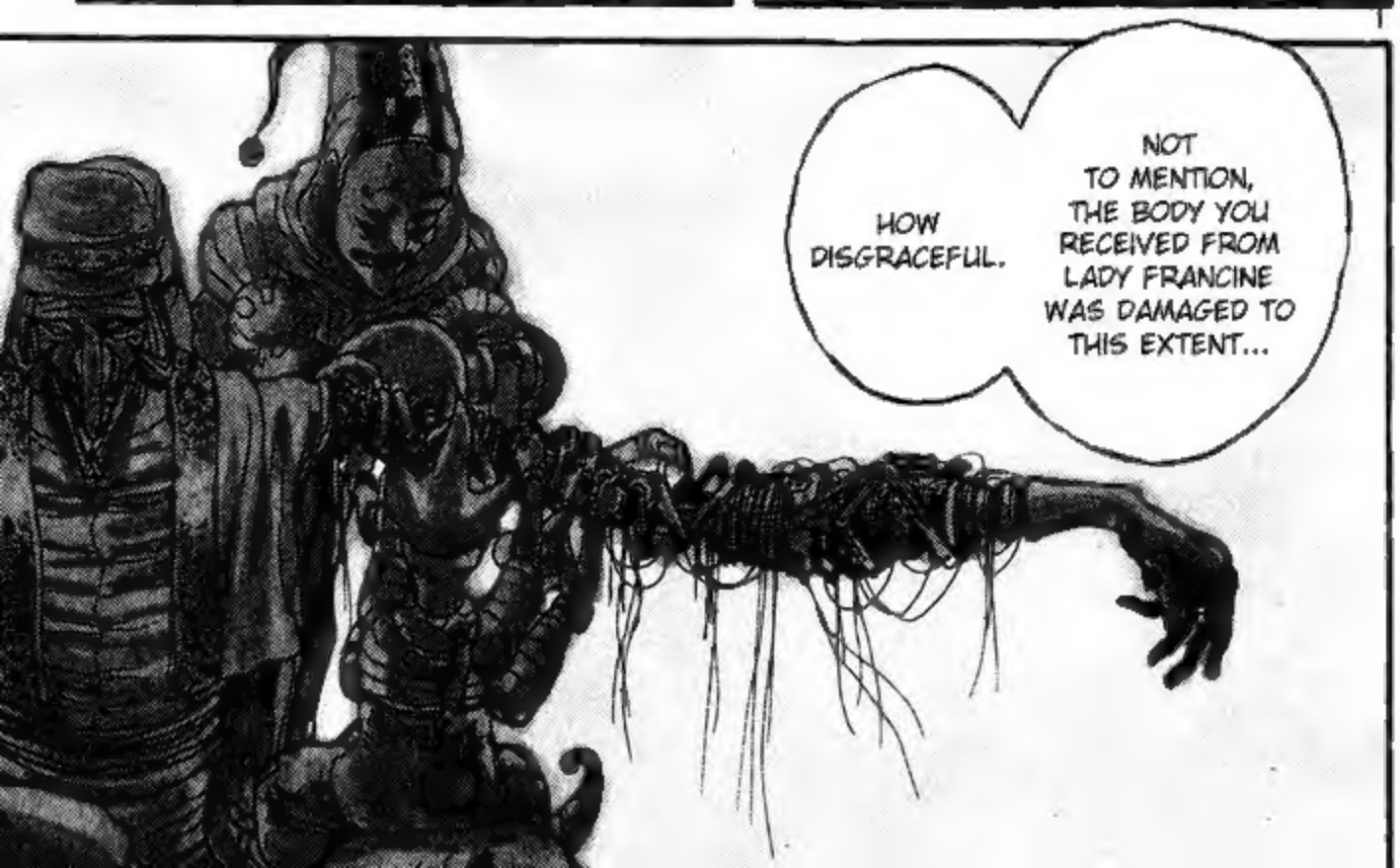
# Intermission I~ The Last Page

# 幕間(まくあい)I~最後(さいご)の頁(ページ)





# 幕間Ⅰ～最後の頁

WELL, HE'S DEAD NOW, ISN'T HE? THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, ALMENDRA.
THAT PERSON CAME FROM A CLAN OF PUPPET USERS, DID HE NOT...? OHH, I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANYONE FROM A HUMAN CIRCUS.
I NEVER THOUGHT TO ENCOUNTER A HUMAN CAPABLE OF MOVING FASTER THAN THE AUTOMATA ...
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT, ARLEC-CHINO.
THIS IS A TRIFLE CONCER-NING...
HOW-EVER ...
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THAT'S WHAT I'M GETTING AT, COLUMBINE.
A DOG WITH A SENSE OF SMELL MANY THOUSANDS OF TIMES BETTER THAN A HUMAN'S... HAS MEMORIZED PANTALONE'S SCENT.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, DOTTORE ?
YES...
PANTALONE, YOU SAID THERE WAS A DOG THAT HAD BECOME A SHIROGANE?
AND WHEN A HUMAN BECOMES A SHIROGANE, THEIR ABILITIES ARE AMPLIFIED BY ABOUT FIVE TIMES ...
AN ORDINARY DOG PURSUING ITS PREY HAS A SENSE OF SMELL TEN THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN A HUMAN'S ...

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THE MOUNTAIN ... COLLAPSED ...
YES... AND WITH IT...
ANY CHANCE OF DIGGING UP THE SPRING OF AQUA VITAE HAS VANISHED.

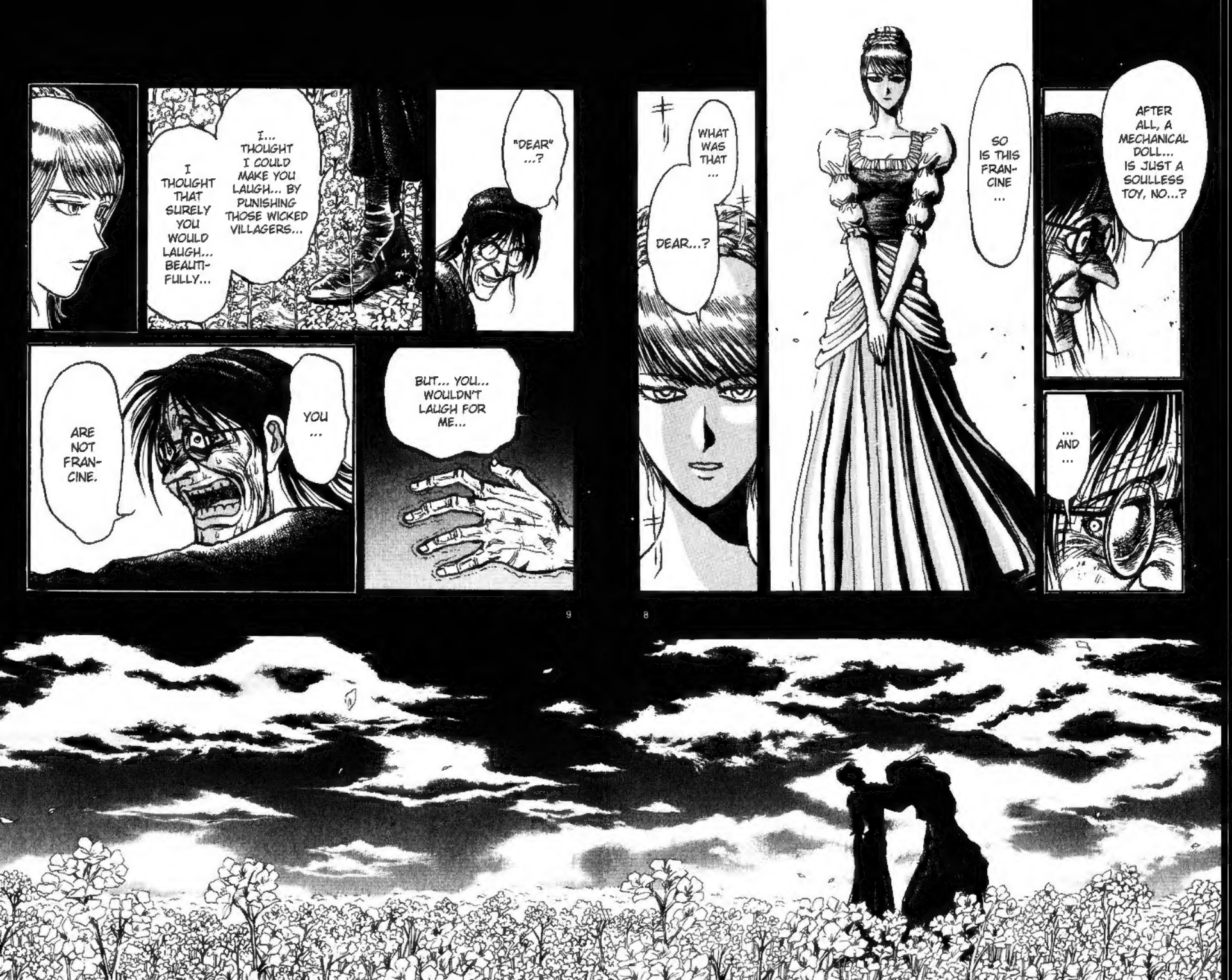
BE STRONG, MISS MING-XIA.
MASTER STAYED TRUE TO THE PRINCIPLES HE LIVED BY AS A MARTIAL ARTIST.
I KNOW... I KNOW THAT, WANG... BUT... BUT...
THAT WEIRD FOUNTAIN OF MEDICINE... WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE RIGHT *THERE* ...?
THAT WAS WHY DAD HAD THOSE EXPLOSIVES ...


I... I WAS FINALLY SO CLOSE TO UNDERSTANDING HIM...

LU-CILLE ...
WAIT JUST A MOMENT, MING-XIA... THE ANSWER TO THAT IS PROBABLY WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK ...

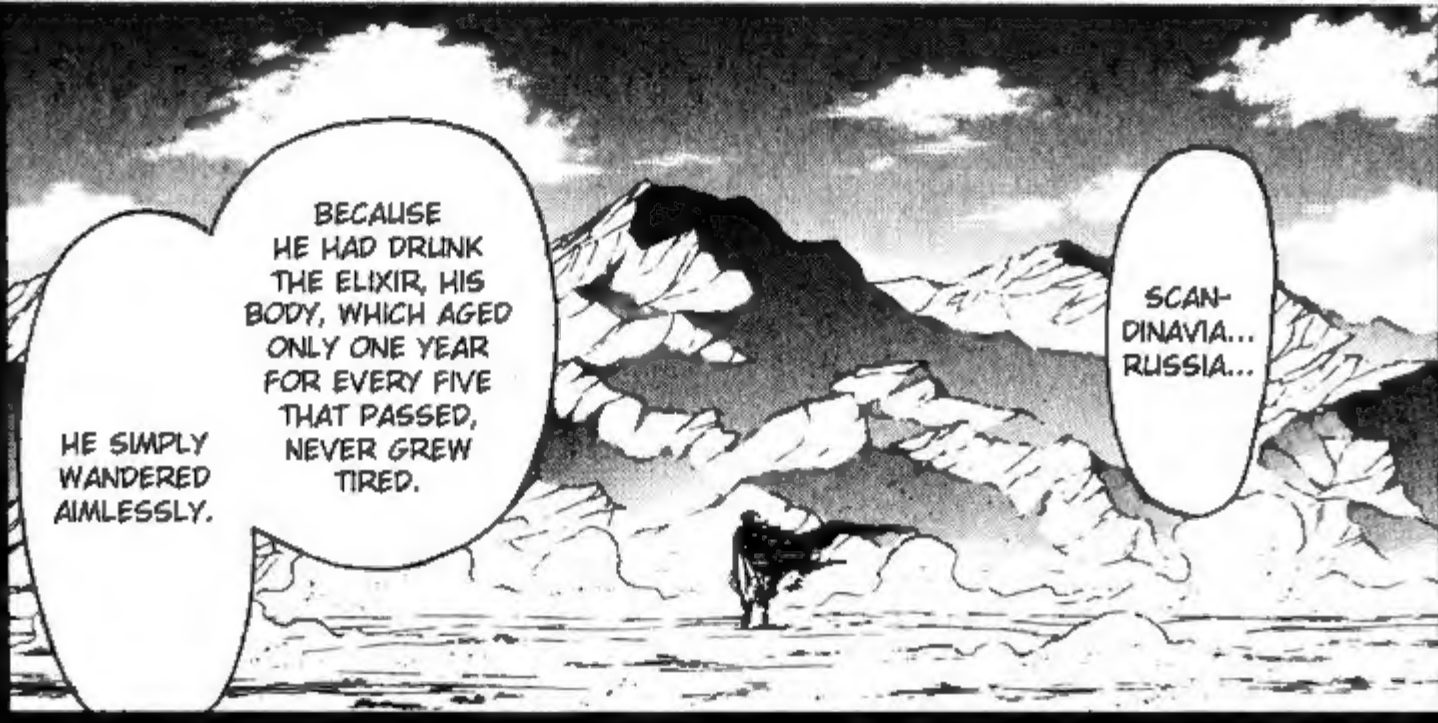
AFTER KROHG VILLAGE WAS DES-TROYED ...
JUST WHAT DID THE CREATOR OF THE AUTOMATA, BAI JIN, DO?

HAH ...
THEY'VE STOPPED MOVING NOW THAT THEIR ROLE HAS BEEN PLAYED...


I THOUGHT THAT SURELY YOU WOULD LAUGH... BEAUTI-FULLY...
I... THOUGHT I COULD MAKE YOU LAUGH... BY PUNISHING THOSE WICKED VILLAGERS...
"DEAR" ...?
ARE NOT FRAN-CINE.
YOU ...
BUT... YOU... WOULDN'T LAUGH FOR ME...
WHAT WAS THAT ...
DEAR...?
SO IS THIS FRAN-CINE ...
AFTER ALL, A MECHANICAL DOLL... IS JUST A SOULLESS TOY, NO...?
... AND ...

I GAVE YOU FRANCINE'S HAIR...
I USED THE AQUA VITAE, I BUILT YOU TO BE CAPABLE OF ANY HUMAN BEHAVIOR ...
BUT STILL ...!
YOU STILL ARE NOT FRAN-CINE!!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A DOLL!
AH... UH...
IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT? AFTER ALL, I BUILT YOU WITH THE NEED TO DRAW BREATH, JUST LIKE FRANCINE.
BUT THIS IS GOODBYE, DOLL.
GOOD-BYE, DOLL WHO IS NOT FRAN-CINE.
GOODBYE.

I'D THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LIVE WITH THIS DOLL ...
"I" ...?
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
SO I DRANK THE AQUA VITAE...
THE SACRED LIQUID THAT GRANTS IMMORTALITY ...
AND SO, LIKE HIS BROTHER YIN, HE DEPARTED QUIBERON.
LEAVING BEHIND THE DOLL FRANCINE AND THE OTHER PUPPETS...
TELL ME...
WHAT SHOULD I DO, FRANCINE ...?
...HE BEGAN TO WANDER.


SCAN-
DINAVIA...
RUSSIA...
BECAUSE HE HAD DRUNK THE ELIXIR, HIS BODY, WHICH AGED ONLY ONE YEAR FOR EVERY FIVE THAT PASSED, NEVER GREW TIRED.
HE SIMPLY WANDERED AIMLESSLY.

EVENTUALLY, A NOSTALGIA FOR HIS NATIVE VILLAGE GREW IN HIS HEART.
AND BY THAT TIME, JIN HAD DISCOVERED ANOTHER WAY TO DIE.

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AT LAST ...
JIN RETURNED TO CHINA AFTER 52 YEARS.

AND NOW... I'LL JUST JUMP INTO THIS...
コポポ
I LOOKED UPON MY HOMETOWN AGAIN...
...I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REGRETS ...

FOR AN ALCHEMIST TO DIE BY MELTING INTO HIS OWN CREATION... IT'S RATHER NICE, ISN'T IT...?
THIS AQUA VITAE WILL COMPLETELY DISSOLVE ME.
"IT'S RATHER NICE, ISN'T IT...?"
THIS BOOK IS DEFINITELY WEIRD.
THERE'S TOO MUCH IN IT ABOUT JIN.

FRANCINE, YOU ARE NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD...
I WILL GO TO WHERE YOU ARE.
TO SOME OTHER LAND, WHERE YOU NOW LIVE...
THAT'S WHERE I'LL TRAVEL.
... JUST WHO WROTE THIS BOOK?!
I-IT CAN'T BE!
THAT'S WHERE I'LL TRAVEL.

BAI JIN
WITH THIS, I END THE BOOK I HAVE WRITTEN OF MY CONFESSIONS.

WHAT A PITIFUL GUY ...
THAT HE HAD TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE SOMEONE ELSE HAD DRAWN AND WRITTEN THIS?
HE WAS SO FULL OF SHAME AND REGRET OVER HIS ACTIONS ...

TH-THE PERSON WHO WROTE THIS BOOK ...
WAS BAI JIN HIMSELF?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO ENDS UP READING IT...
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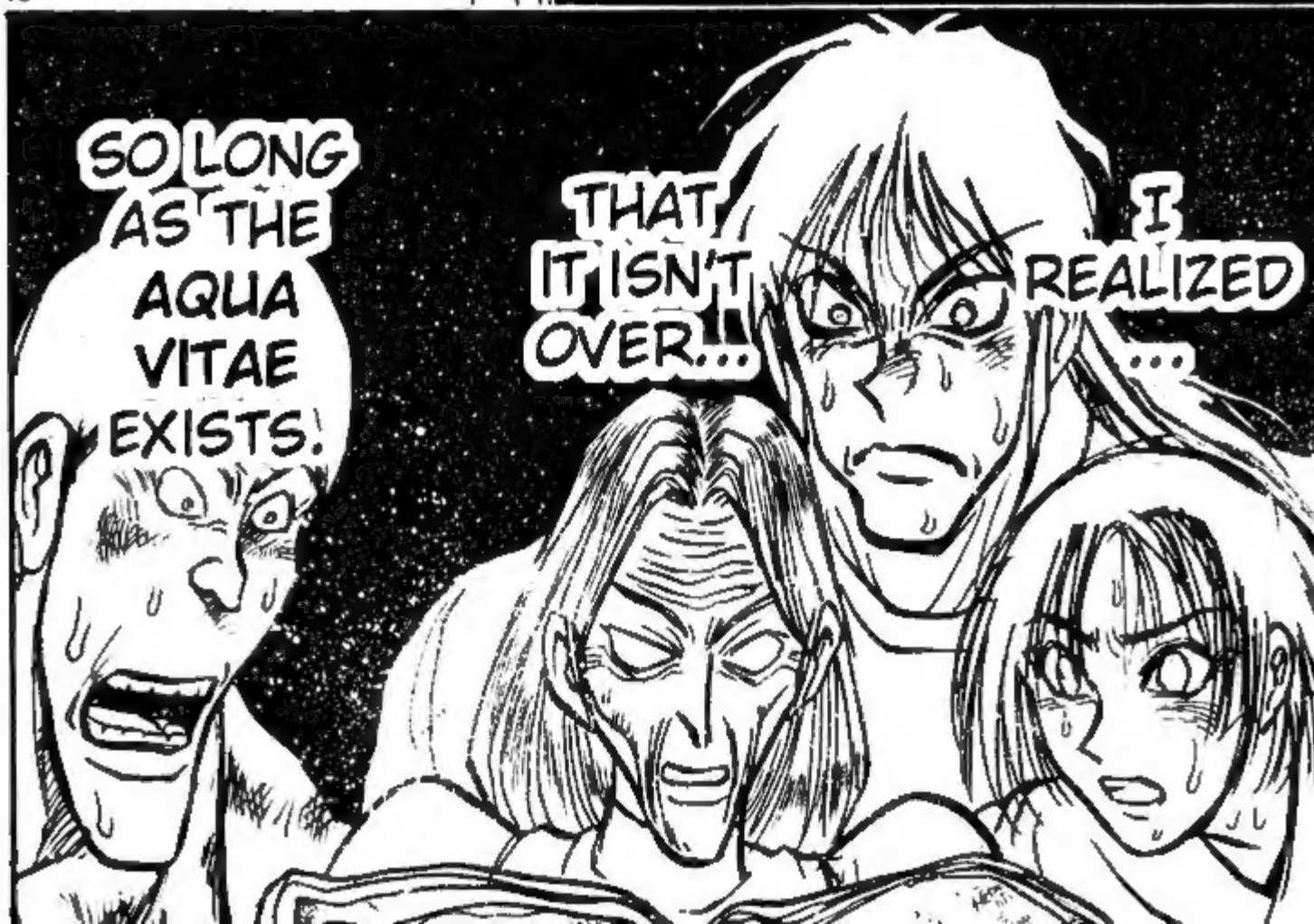
I'LL BE COMING TO YOU SOON.
FRANCINE...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT YOU .
THAT'S RIGHT . I WONDER WHY I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT UNTIL NOW...
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. SHE... IS STILL HERE.
KUKU ...
DID I SAY FRANCINE IS NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD ..?
WHY .. I JUST WENT ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY...

HEY, LOOK, LUCILLE.
THERE'S SOME MORE WRITTEN ON THAT LAST PAGE...


SO LONG AS THE AQUA VITAE EXISTS!
THAT IT ISN'T OVER...!!
I REALIZED ...

IT SEEMS THAT JIN...
MAY NOT HAVE DIED AFTER ALL. WE SHOULD OPERATE UNDER THE ASSUMPTION ...

WOOF!

BUT WHAT ...
THAT HE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING JUST BEFORE HE WAS GOING TO DIE, AND CHANGED HIS PLAN.

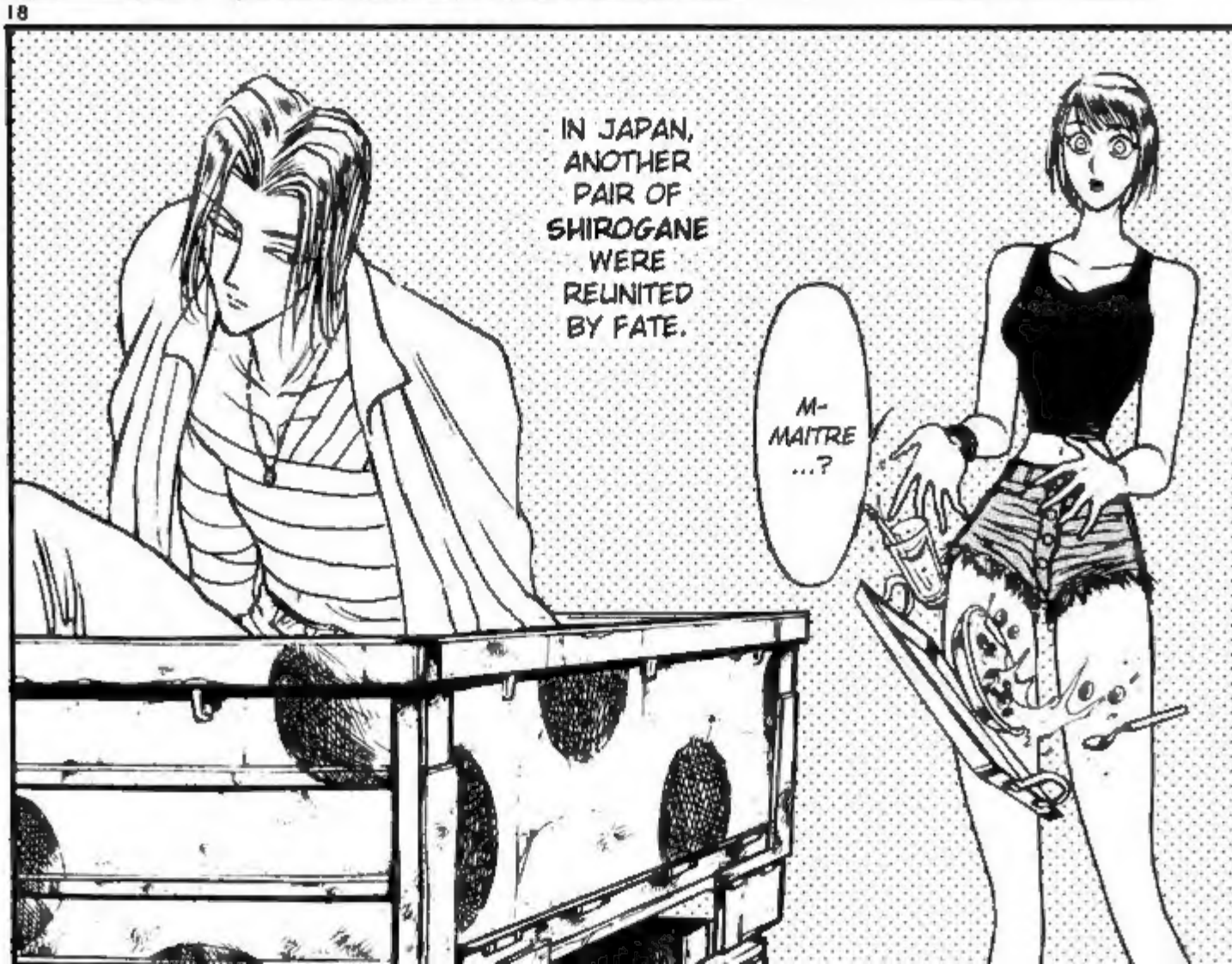
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT?
THE AUTO-MA-TON ...

WOOF!

OH, IT'S THE DOG ...

JIN AND THE ALITOMATA ARE SURELY CONNECTED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS DOG KNOWS A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN JUST THIS.
JIN IS ALSO A MATTER OF CONCERN, BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW THIS LEAD.
LET'S GO, NARUMI.
NO WAY... THIS DOG UNDER-STANDS...
HUH?
AS THESE TWO SHIROGANE BEGAN TO FOLLOW THE DOG TOWARDS THEIR NEXT BATTLE...
M-MISS MING-XIA!
O-OKAY.
AH! HEY, WAIT A SECOND!




IN JAPAN, ANOTHER PAIR OF SHIROGANE WERE REUNITED BY FATE.
M-MAITRE ...?

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Welcome back! It's coming
up on a year since I started
this project. Thank you all
for sticking with me this far.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves.